



EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice Report

DECEMBER 2017

"The Region 6 Vision is that all persons, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture or income, are protected from unacceptable levels of environmental pollution and hazards and are given the opportunity to meaningfully participate in environmental decisions and processes that may affect their health or community. Environmental Justice is a principle that permeates all that we do in Region 6."

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

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Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Arkansas

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

2017 EJ Small Grant Announcement – Arkansas: OEJTIA staff participated in the 2017 EJ Small Grant Announcement for Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light (AIPL) on November 15, 2017, in Little Rock. AIPL was awarded a \$30,000 EJ Small Grant to conduct a Sustainable Self-Sufficiency Community Model project. The project will involve energy efficiency outreach, organic gardening demonstrations, food distribution activities, and outdoor environmental education workshops. Representatives from the City of Little Rock and the office of Rep. French Hill were also in attendance. EJ Small Grants provide assistance to community-based organizations to address environmental and public health issues. The grants support EPA Strategic Plan Goal 2 – Cooperative Federalism and Objective 2.2 - Increase Transparency and Public Participation. Contacts: Japhet Cruz-Diaz, 214-665-3176, and Tressa Tillman, 214-665-2261.

Enforcement Division

Community Meeting in Crossett, Arkansas regarding Georgia-Pacific: On December 14, 2017, EPA Region 6 Enforcement staff and management attended a public meeting in Crossett, Arkansas where they presented the results of their 6-month hydrogen sulfide air monitoring study. The monitoring study evaluated hydrogen sulfide emissions from the Georgia-Pacific paper mill's wastewater treatment system and the impacts on the community. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) hosted the meeting to receive comments on several State air and wastewater permitting actions at the facility. ADEQ invited the Region to attend to present our study's findings. Georgia-Pacific presented their wastewater treatment improvement projects and ongoing monitoring. The Arkansas Department of Health also attended. Contact: Sarah Frey, 214-665-6499.

Multimedia Division

Updates?

Superfund Division

Updates?

Hope Iron and Metal Removal: The Hope Iron and Metal site is located in Hope, Arkansas. It was operated as a salvage yard during the 1980-1990s. The facility received and processed transformers. Salvage operations included burning insulation materials off of copper wiring, storing outdated electrical transformers with PCB-containing oil, and draining of the oil directly onto the ground prior to scrapping and selling the metal. The site is approximately 2.5 acres in size and is located in a residential area. The facility was abandoned in the late 1990's.

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) determined that the abandoned site contained heavy metal, polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The EPA removal assessment identified various potential contaminants-of-concern (COCs) at the site and at two adjacent residential properties. The EPA determined there was a health threat due to the presence of contaminated soil on site and its accessibility by local residents. After consultation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), EPA developed cleanup levels for the site's COCs; antimony, cadmium, lead, PAHs and PCBs. EPA coordinated with representatives from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), who visited the site and spoke with the residents to educate them about the contaminants found at the site and to discuss options for testing children for blood lead levels. Once blood lead testing was complete the ADH returned to the site to help explain the testing results to parents.

EPA mobilized to the site on May 6, 2017, to initiate cleanup activities. Prior to initiation of removal activities, the EPA met with City of Hope's City Manager to inform her of planned site activities. The meeting also yielded useful information on best transportation routes for heavy equipment and disposal trucks to access the site, avoiding roads not rated for overweight loads as well as bypassing residential areas. During the summer of 2017, EPA excavated approximately 14,000 tons of contaminated soil from the facility property and adjacent residential properties. EPA's removal activities were severely hampered by heavy rains which inundated the site. To lessen the impact of wet conditions on site activities EPA mobilized board road pallets to enable the continuation of work.

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Removal activities were completed on August 4, 2017. Contaminated soil was transported offsite to the Waste Corporation of America Landfill disposal facility in El Dorado, Arkansas. Restoration activities returned the site to its original grade and seeding activities were performed to prevent runoff, including hydro seeding of areas disturbed as a result of site activities. Post restoration activities included touring the site with the City of Hope public works

official to ensure site drainage was re-established and any damage to site or city roads was repaired. EPA allocated approximately \$1.75 million for the removal operations.

Water Quality Division

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Clean Water Act, Section 106 Funds

Awarded: On July 21, 2017, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) was awarded an additional \$502,250 under the Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 106 for a total of \$2,060,000 in Federal funding for FY 17. The rant was mailed to ADEQ on July 28, 2017, after the required Congressional Notification period. These funds are provided to assist ADEQ in the management of the State's base water quality program for FY 17. Contact: Arlene Gaines, 214-665-7163.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Receives Nonpoint Source Program

Funds: The Water Division awarded \$3,162,000 in Fiscal Year 2017 funds to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to support the state's nonpoint source pollution prevention program. These funds are awarded under the authority of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This program supports the Arkansas Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Management Plan and will be performed in Priority Watersheds as defined by the State of Arkansas. The activities include watershed planning, Best Management Practice implementation, water quality monitoring for baseline and post-implementation data, education and outreach activities. Contacts: Melissa Benfer, 214-665-8423; and Curry Jones, 214-665-6793.

Louisiana

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

LDEQ Visit and EJSCREEN Training: On Thursday, October 12, 2017, OEJTIA staff attended an introductory meeting with Denise Bennett, Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and their executive staff in Baton Rouge, LA regarding the Region 6 EJ Program and partnering on future projects. In addition, OEJTIA staff provided EJSCREEN Training to LDEQ's permitting staff and managers. LDEQ will explore ways they can use the screening and mapping tool in permitting and other actions as part of the state's approach to EJ related issues. Overall, LDEQ wanted to know what the expectations are in relation to using EJSCREEN. Contacts: Gloria Vaughn 214-665-7535; and Charlotte Runnels 214-665-6442.

Enforcement Division

New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project: On August 28, 2017, EPA issued a comment letter to the U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers' in response to the Draft Environmental Assessment for the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project, which is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The proposed project analyzes the impacts associated with the acquisition of additional right-of-way for levees. EPA suggested recommendations regarding clarification of anticipated project/alternative sources of air pollution, best management practices be implemented in order to reduce potential short-term air quality impacts associated with construction activities, and conduct activities in accordance with applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations. Contact: Kimeka Price, 214-665-7438.

Multimedia Division

2011 Cooperative Agreement Meeting between EPA, LDEQ, and Dow Chemical in Plaquemine, Louisiana: EPA and LDEQ met with Dow Chemical on December 1, 2017, to discuss the 2011 Cooperative Agreement for Off-Site Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA) of the Plaquemine Aquifer. Discussions centered around the Addendum approved by LDEQ and EPA in October for the second 5-year monitoring interval of the MNA Remedy for the low levels of vinyl chloride in the Plaquemine Aquifer near Plaquemine, Louisiana. The next 5-year review will be conducted in 2022, with the expectation that the remedy will be at, or near, completion by then. Contact: Gregory Lyssy, 214-665-8317.

Superfund Division

Bayou Sorrel Superfund Site – Site Inspection: On December 12, 2017, EPA, in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Bayou Sorrel Steering Committee Chairman, conducted a Site inspection at the Bayou Sorrel Site in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. The Site inspection is being conducted as part of the Five-Year Review process for the sixth Five-Year Review for the Site. No significant issues were identified. Contact: John Meyer, 214-665-6742.

Water Quality Division

\$11 Million DWSRF Award to Louisiana Department of Health: The SRF and Projects Section completed their FFY 2017 award to the Louisiana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program on August 1, 2017. This capitalization grant will be used to ensure that Louisiana citizens are provided safe and clean drinking water. The \$11,299,000 will be allocated towards DW infrastructure improvements including Disadvantaged Communities, and Small Systems. The DWSRF award also provides 'set-aside' funds which support a significant part of the State's drinking water program. Contact: Ruben Camacho, 214-665-7599.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Awarded CWA 319 Grant: On August 23, 2017 staff from the State and Tribal Programs Section awarded \$1,956,000 in federal grant funding to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) for assistance in the implementation of the Louisiana Nonpoint Source Management Plan, which is designed to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act, Section 319. Funding of this cooperative agreement through LDAF will support a variety of projects and will help to address water quality problems throughout Louisiana. Contacts: Anthony Suttice, 214-665-8590; and Melissa Benfer, 214-665-8423.

New Mexico

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

NM EJ Collaborative Meeting, Sep 29, 2017: Valle De Oro Refuge hosted the NM EJ Collaborative meeting. Members of the Mountain View Neighborhood association gave a presentation on the issues they are facing in addition to a presentation on the NEJAC Council by Richard Moore. Friends of the Valle de Oro gave an update on activities planned for their 5th year anniversary special scheduled for Sat Sept 30th. Extensive discussion was held between City of Albuquerque Air Quality staff and Mountain view residents. The 2017 NM EJ Collaborative action plan was discussed with suggested action items to be added to the 2018 NM EJ Collaborative Action plan. Disaster preparedness was a major issue brought up in rural communities such as Wagon Mound and Mountain View. Contact: Debra Tellez, 214-665-5229; and Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department Air Coalition Meeting: On November 1, OEJTIA staff attended the Albuquerque Air Quality Coalition meeting. The stakeholder coalition meeting included representatives from the San Jose Neighborhood Association, Foothills Neighborhood Association, Central & Bridge neighborhood, and the Martinez Neighborhood, Bernalillo County Commissioner District 3 Maggie Hart Stebbins as well as a few Air Quality Board members. A brief listening session to discuss Air Quality Experiences as well as a demonstration of their new Enforcement Technology GS300 FLIR infrared camera. The coalition came to agreement on a demonstration by the Albuquerque Environmental Health staff's process for reviewing air permit applications and associated data at the next air coalition meeting on February 1, 2018. Contact: Debra Tellez, 214-665-5229.

Enforcement Division

Updates?

Multimedia Division

RCRA End of Year Review of the New Mexico Environment Department: On September 14, EPA Region 6 conducted the RCRA grant and overall programmatic end of year review with the New Mexico Environment Department RCRA Program managers via conference call. The state's hazardous waste program is operating well and no major issues were noted were anticipated. Contact: Maurice Hill, 214-665-8523.

FY17 Lead Based Paint State Authorization, New Mexico Dept. of Health: The lead based paint program funded the New Mexico Department of Health with \$50,000 dollars of STAG funding to study applying for authorization to run the lead programs. This would be to adopt both the 402 (abatement) & Renovate, Repair & Paint (RRP) programs. This is the first year of the exploratory funding for New Mexico. Contact: Mikeal Adams, 214-665-6711.

Superfund Division

South Valley Superfund Site, Albuquerque, NM: On April 7, 2017, General Electric (GE) requested that EPA commence delisting Operable Units 2 and 5 at the South Valley Site, from the National Priorities List (NPL). EPA Region 6 sent a letter to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on June 5, 2017, requesting NMED inform EPA Region 6 whether or not it concurred with GE's request to delist Operable Units 2 and 5 at the South Valley Site, as well as EPA's proposal to delist Operable Unit 1. On August 7, 2017, NMED informed EPA that NMED is transmitting a letter indicating that NMED concurs with GE's request and EPA's proposal to commence delisting procedures for Operable Units 1, 2, and 5. Upon receipt of NMED's delisting concurrence letter, EPA Region 6 will commence delisting procedures. This delisting event will only be a partial delisting of the site from the NPL since activities under Operable Units 3, 4, and 6 are still on going at the South Valley Site. Contact: John Meyer, 214-665-6742.

Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site: On September 22, 2017, the EPA Region 6 Superfund program proudly recognized several Chevron Questa Mine Superfund Site Eagle Rock Lake project stakeholders with the EPA Region 6 Greenovations Award at an event held along the shores of beautiful Eagle Rock Lake in Questa, New Mexico. The Region 6 Greenovations Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations whose leadership signifies "above and beyond" performance by maximizing environmental outcomes and minimizing environmental impacts through greener cleanups, sustainability and reuse initiatives. The Greenovations Awards for the Eagle Rock Lake project were presented to Chevron Environmental Management Company, U.S. Forest Service, New Mexico Department of Fish and Game, Village of Questa, and Chevron project contractors Arcadis and ENTACT. The EPA Superfund program, the New Mexico Environment Department and these stakeholders worked collaboratively to identify long term, innovative enhancements for the lake cleanup and restoration. EPA Region 6 coordinated with the Village of Questa, Chevron Mining and other state and federal stakeholders to host this Greenovations Award Event for the Eagle Rock Lake project. Contact: John Meyer, 214-665-6742.

Las Cruces Brownfields Webinar: The Las Cruces Brownfields Webinar, scheduled on December 13, 2017, was the first effort to educate and engage City of Las Cruces staff about Brownfields basics and the potential impact of Brownfields assistance and revitalization. The second Las Cruces Brownfields Webinar will be held for parties/entities in the Las Cruces area in January 2018. Both webinars will lead up to a 1-day Brownfields Workshop held in Las Cruces in February 2018. Kansas State University - Technical Assistance to Brownfields Community (KSU-TAB), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD), City of Las Cruces Sustainability Office, and EPA Region 6 are coordinating webinars and workshop. Contact: Anthony Talton, 214-665-7205.

Gallup Wastewater Treatment Plant, Gallup, New Mexico: In March of 2016, EPA conducted a Clean Air Act, section 112 (r) inspection at the Gallup Wastewater Treatment Plant in Gallup, New Mexico. The inspection identified several violations including violations related to training of facility personnel and mechanical integrity of facility process equipment. EPA

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reached a settlement with Gallup Wastewater Treatment Plant on December 11, 2017, for penalties totaling \$133,785, with approximately \$98,595 of that amount coming from Gallup's performance of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). Gallup will purchase and donate to the Gallup Fire Department; personal protective equipment including air tanks and self-contained breathing apparatus, thermal imaging equipment and will provide two training courses focused on emergency response.

Water Quality Division

Region 6 Community Selected to Receive Technical Assistance: On December 15, 2017, EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC) informed Region 6 of the selection of the Explora Science Center & Children's Museum of Albuquerque, NM to receive technical assistance in 2018 via EPA's Building Blocks program. EPA's OSC has partnered with the Institute of Museum and Library Studies (IMLS) to offer Building Blocks technical assistance workshops to four of the 12 communities selected by IMLS to receive grants via their Community Catalyst grant initiative. The Explora Science Center & Children's Museum (Explora) will partner with the New Mexico State Library, Central New Mexico Community College, the University of New Mexico Cariño Toy Lending Library, the New Mexico Public Broadcasting Station, and the Bernalillo County Early Childhood Accountability Partnership to create and support STEM Charging Stations for Young Children & Families to address the achievement gap between the community's low-income children and their more economically advantaged peers. Contact: Suzanna Perea, 214-665-7217.

Oklahoma

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

OEJTIA Visits ODEQ and The ARC Foundation: On August 28, 2017, OEJTIA visited with leadership from the Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division of the ODEQ. The meeting focused on the Oklahoma Collaborative Action Plan, existing and future partnerships between OEJTIA and ODEQ, and ongoing activities related to EJ and Tribal communities in Oklahoma. OEJTIA staff also met with EJ Small Grant Grantee, The ARC Foundation, to review their proposed project plans. Through their Oklahoma City Water Conservation and Awareness Training Program, The ARC Foundation will train Oklahomans on affordable water conservation practices for home use, as well as bring more awareness to the state about the need to protect natural water resources. Contacts: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535; and Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162.

Enforcement Division

Joint NPDES Oversight Inspections in Oklahoma: Five Oklahoma NPDES Oversight Compliance Evaluation Inspections: A member of the EPA Region 6 Municipal Water Team completed five joint comprehensive compliance investigations (CEI) of Major Wastewater Treatment Plants (two industrial and three municipal) in the State of Oklahoma with Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) inspection officials. These National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) CEIs occurred from Monday November 13, to Friday November 17, 2017. The Oklahoma state partnership and compliance monitoring inspections were coordinated with Mr. Jason Ma, ODEQ State Inspection Coordinator at 405-702-8235. The broad goal is to protect the nations surface waters and ensure this water is clean and safe. Contact: Damon McElroy, 214-665-7159.

Multimedia Division

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) RCRA End-of-Year (EOY) Review: On August 24, 2017, EPA Region 6 and ODEQ RCRA Program Managers and staff conducted the RCRA grant and overall programmatic EOY Review. ODEQ's performance is satisfactory with no major issues noted. Contact: Sarah Perham, 214-665-2752.

End of Year Visit with ODAFF FY17: Pesticide Program Staff conducted the FY2017 End of Year Review with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) at

their headquarters in Oklahoma City, OK on November 13-14, 2017. Staff reviewed 26 inspection reports in preparation for the meeting and met with ODAFF to discuss Certified Application License updates, dicamba issues, enforcement reporting, Pesticides in Water program, and State Pesticide Laboratory needs. The ODAFF received about 50 dicamba complaints in 2017 for both soybean and cotton, with the majority related to soybeans. ODAFF is set to meet next week (11/20-11/25) with state groups such as Agricultural Retailers, Cotton Council, Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension, Farm Bureau, and OK Cattlemen's Association to work out a revised and updated applicator training strategy to enforce new label requirements including wind speed and temperature restrictions. Pesticide Program staff received an interactive tour of ODAFF's recently updated online licensing and registration system, Kelly Solutions. This system integrates certified applicator and producer establishment license application/renewal, pesticide registration, and inspection/enforcement records. All of these records will be viewable by ODAFF and EPA staff in real time. The state has close to 15,000 active certified commercial applicators as well as almost 8,000 private applicators; this system will allow them all to renew online in multiple categories, and keep track of Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) by license category. Inspectors can keep track of credentials and CEUs through the system as well, allowing EPA to keep track of inspector cases and credentials in real time. As of November 1, 2017, Oklahoma government entities no longer receive exemption for the certified applicator licensing fee. The ODAFF continues to provide excellent work and no significant issues were identified during the review. Contact: Eric Nystrom, 214-665-6752.

Superfund Division

Tar Creek - Motion to Enter \$15 Million Consent Decree: On September 26, 2017, the Northern District of Oklahoma granted the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) motion to enter a consent decree worth \$15,036,727 to EPA. The consent decree settles the United States' Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) claims against the Doe Run Resources Corporation, NL Industries, Inc. and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), related to the Tar Creek Superfund Site, Ottawa County, Oklahoma. The Site is a forty-square mile area. It is contaminated with millions of tons of mine tailings (chat and fine tailings) from lead and zinc mining. ASARCO, LLC ("ASARCO") had intervened in an attempt to block the settlement. The United States had previously settled its Tar Creek CERCLA claims against ASARCO in bankruptcy. ASARCO alleged that it had overpaid in the 2009 bankruptcy settlement. The consent decree also settles the State of Oklahoma's Site-

related claims against Doe Run and NL, and DOI. Under the consent decree, Doe Run and NL will pay the State \$287,000. Contact: Ben Banipal, 214-665-7324.

Dewey High School Assessment, Dewey, OK: On November 3, 2017, EPA received an NRC report that multiple female students at a High School located in Dewey, Oklahoma were experiencing seizure like symptoms and other neurological effects due to unknown causes. Water sampling conducted by the City of Dewey indicated results consistent with background levels. Additionally, Dewey Public School officials arranged for the testing of mold and gas leaks which resulted in non-detects. On November 6, 2017 the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) requested assistance from EPA to assess the school for potential contamination. On November 7, 2017, EPA OSC and technical contractors responded to assist ODEQ with assessment of the school.

EPA and START re-mobilized on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, to Dewey, OK to assess the Dewey Public Schools system at the request of the School Superintendent and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)., ODEQ collected water samples to run for heavy metals and volatile organic compounds. Based on recommendations from the EPA Environmental Response Team, Superfund Technical Support Center, and R6 Toxicologists, EPA ran eight-hour air sampling events which were analyzed for volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and pesticides. EPA also collected wipe samples to assess potential dermal exposure, which were analyzed for pesticides and semi-volatile organic compounds. All sample results were evaluated by EPA Toxicologists who determined that sampling results did not identify contaminant levels that would account for the symptoms being exhibited by the Dewey students. Through this assessment the EPA determined that the sampling results did not identify chemical/environmental contaminants that would account for the symptoms experienced by the students. These results were communicated to the School District and other stakeholders ensuring that they possess accurate and useful information for decision making.

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Pawhuska High School Emergency Response: On August 14, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 (EPA) was notified of the evacuation of the Pawhuska HS, due to high levels of a potentially explosive or harmful gas. EPA dispatched an Emergency Response Team to conduct an assessment of the situation. EPA held daily conference calls with and coordinated closely with an active work group, including the Osage Nation, State of Oklahoma Energy & Environment, the Pawhuska School District, Bureau of Indian Affairs, State Fire

Marshal, Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oklahoma Water Resource Board and other Stakeholders on the assessment. EPA conducted air monitoring and air sampling to confirm indoor air levels were below EPA screening level for hazardous chemicals. To address elevated levels of methane occurring outside the school from geothermal wells EPA made recommendations and even provided design options for an emergency ventilation system. Construction of this system required the Osage Nation Congress to reach an intergovernmental agreement between the Osage Nation and the State of Oklahoma. Once the agreement was reached, the emergency ventilation system was completed on August 28, 2017. Additionally, a historic gas well located on the softball field was plugged under the authority and jurisdiction of the Osage Minerals Council, with financial assistance from the Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management.

EPA also participated in a public meeting, hosted by the Pawhuska Public Schools, in order to summarize the incident and response efforts, discuss plans to address the seeps at the geothermal well locations and oil and gas production wells, and address concerns posed by local residents.

On October 2, 2017, at the request of the Pawhuska School Administration and other members of the workgroup (Osage Nation, Osage Mineral Council, Oklahoma Office of Energy & Environment, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oklahoma Water Resource Board, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Oklahoma Fire Marshal), the EPA team returned to the site address concerns expressed by school officials that potentially contaminated soil was left on the softball field following the plugging of the gas well. EPA conducted extensive soil sampling across the softball field. Analytical results were received and the results were reviewed by an EPA toxicologist. Analysis for metals, Volatile Organic Carbon (VOC), Semi-Volatile Organic Carbons (SVOC), and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH's) were not detected or were below U.S. EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSL's). Additionally, the arsenic concentration range was consistent with the arsenic background level in Oklahoma soil, confirming the soils at the Pawhuska High School softball field are unlikely to cause harm to people utilizing this facility.

Enterprise Pipeline Spill: On October 24, 2017, an EPA response team responded to what was reported as a worst case discharge of 50,000 barrels of crude oil from a 30-inch pipeline owned and operated by Enterprise Products L.P. (EP), in Cushing, OK. The spill occurred the night before and the report was based on the total capacity of the 13-mile pipeline segment, the information available at the time. The Lincoln County Emergency Management (LCEM) requested assistance from EPA with air monitoring due to the proximity of the spill to a

residential area. In addition, the Sac & Fox Nation, who holds tribal jurisdiction in the county, expressed concern with the spill potentially affecting Wildhorse Creek, a natural resource used by the Nation. Upon arrival, the RP and local jurisdictions indicated to the EPA team that after an assessment the spilled volume was downgraded to around 6,500 to 7,000 barrels (273,000-294,000 gallons). Due to the location of the spill, most of the oil was contained within a 1.2-acre impoundment in an adjacent property. The spill occurred due to a break within an underground section of the line right outside the Enterprise property. During the initial assessment, EPA identified that no oil had flowed past the initial impoundment and that another retention pond was located downstream and before Wildhorse Creek. EPA coordinated a response and removal plan with the RP and the soil remediation with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC), also responding. The RP hired a response contractor with the proper equipment and resources to handle such a large spilled volume. In the meantime, EPA conducted air monitoring within the nearby communities and within the response activities. No contaminants of concern were detected within the residential area but high levels of volatile organic compounds were noted within the oil recovery area by the pond. The responders, including the EPA Team, were at times required to use air protective equipment while within the recovery area. By October 26, 2017, the majority of the oil had been recover from the pond and the ditch leading into it from pipeline break. The OCC had approved the contaminated soil excavation and disposal plan to be put in place. This response involved the coordination of EPA with multiple state and local agencies including OCC, LCEM, and the Sac & Fox Nation Environmental Department. EPA response allowed for the protection of the local community and Wildhorse Creek, a natural resource used by many for recreation and by local ranchers as a water source for cattle.

Seaboard Foods, Guymon, Oklahoma: As a result of Clean Air Act, section 112 (f) violations identified during a March 30, 2015 inspection, EPA reached a settlement with Seaboard Foods. Seaboard operates a pork production and processing plant in Guymon, Oklahoma and utilizes anhydrous ammonia in their refrigeration process. The facility had experienced several accidental releases of ammonia and EPA identified several violations during two inspections at the facility. EPA reached a settlement with Seaboard Foods totaling \$111,860, with approximately \$62,684 of that amount coming from Seaboard's performance of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The settlement was finalized on December 5, 2017. As a result of the settlement, Seaboard Foods will purchase and donate to the Guymon, Oklahoma Fire Department a High Pressure Breathing Air Compressor for filling breathing air cylinders used by the Guymon Fire Department in emergency response activities.

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Water Quality Division

Updates?

Texas

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

Sandbranch - Technical Assistance for an Infrastructure Roadmap: On October 27, 2017, the Sandbranch community received a TASC (Technical Assistance Services for Communities) award of \$43,449 to draft an infrastructure roadmap to secure water, wastewater and solid waste services, along with necessary housing modifications for the unincorporated community in Dallas County, Texas. The TASC contract was negotiated by OEJTIA and is being funded by EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. Contacts: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162; and Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123.

Texas Transportation Public Meeting: June - December 2017, OEJTIA attended Public Meetings conducted by The Regional Transportation Council and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). These meetings encompass Mobility 2045, which is the region's long-range transportation master plan guiding the expenditure of federal and state funds; as well as the overall needs for North Central Texas, which include the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with disabilities and individuals with lower incomes. Several federal funded projects adversely impact minority and low income communities/populations. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

Enforcement Division

ECO-Services (Houston, TX; and Baytown, TX): On August 24, 2017, the Region issued a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to Eco-Services for violations of EPCRA Section 313 reporting requirements for toxic chemicals. Specifically, the Baytown facility failed to report carbon disulfide in 2012 and 2013 and the Houston facility failed to report acrolein in 2014. The violations were discovered from data showing discrepancies between Toxic Release Inventory and Risk Management Plan reports. Information collected from EPCRA reporting requirements supports informed decision-making by industry, government, non-governmental organizations, and the public, while at the same time encouraging facilities to reduce emissions/pollution/waste. The CAFO requires certification of compliance with reporting requirements and imposes a penalty of \$36,120. EPA directly implements the EPCRA 313 program as it has not been delegated to the states. Contact: Mort Wakeland, 214-665-8116.

EPA Signs Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with Hexion Inc., Deer Park, Texas: On August 30, 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to address injunctive activities related to violations of Section 112(r)(1) of the Clean Air Act by Hexion, Inc. (Hexion) located in Deer Park, Texas. Hexion's operator ignored an oxygen warning alarm and did not react to a surge of oxygen into a bis-phenol acetone (BPA) storage silo that started a fire and substantially damaged the unit. Hexion agreed to add actuated nitrogen purge valves to each of its seven BPA product silos to prevent a recurrence. The new purge valves will prevent oxygen from accumulating in the silos. Hexion was issued a penalty in the amount of \$36,214. Contacts: Tony Robledo, 214-665-8182; and Jeffrey Clay, 214-665-7297.

Multimedia Division

FY17 Region 6 Lead Based Paint and Children's Health Program Poison Prevention Initiative: Region 6 Lead Based Paint and Children's Health Program provided \$60,000 to the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHU) at Texas Tech in El Paso to leverage existing funding from EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection and ATSDT to address lead poisoning prevention (Healthy Homes and Lead in Drinking Water) training to multiple audiences in Texas and New Mexico. Training is scheduled to take place in the first half of FY18. Contacts: Paula Selzer, 214-665-6663; and Mikeal Adams, 214-665-6711.

Clean Harbor, Deer Park to receive Class-2 modification to handle Takata Airbags: Clean Harbor, Deer Park facility applied and received a RCRA permit mod to dispose Airbags from Eagle Pass, TX. The permit mod entails installation and operation of a Shredder to handle inflators in the airbags. The modification also exempts airbags/inflators from DoT explosive materials classifications. Contact: Hrushikesh Shah, 214-665-6457.

Superfund Division

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, Dallas, TX: In January 2017, EPA facilitated a meeting with local officials, industry and community members to discuss the notification process for chemical releases near communities in the Houston Ship Channel, which includes eastern Harris County. As a follow-up to that meeting, Emergency Management Branch staff joined the Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs staff to facilitate a conference call with local and State officials on August 4, 2017. The call continued the conversation on notification during chemical events. Discussions included how to ensure everyone in the community is notified on a timely basis, they understand what actions are being taken to protect the community, and what actions individuals should take. Contacts: Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220, Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Brine Service Company Superfund Site – Field Work: Starting the week of November 27, 2017, EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees) started oversight of construction work at the Brine Service Company Superfund Site located in Corpus Christi, Texas. The potentially responsible party (PRP) group contractors started construction of a clay/geotechnical liner cap in the East Ditch to address hydrocarbon seeps in the ditch. Construction experienced delays due to a November 28, 2017, discharge from Buckeye Refining located east and adjacent to the Site and from significant rain December 6-7, 2017. Additional seeps in the East Ditch were discovered on October 10, 2017. The new seeps are north and close to the originally-identified seeps and about 80-feet to the south through and past grand cane in the ditch. Contamination in the shallow ground water was determined to be the source of the hydrocarbon seeps the East Ditch. The original design of the cap was lengthened to cover the new seep areas after hand-augering confirmed the increased extent of the cap. Cap construction is now expected to be completed by December 15, 2017, prior to the completion date in the work plan of December 31, 2017. Contact: John Meyer, 214-665-6742.

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Gristmill Lane Mercury Response: EPA responded to a report of a mercury spill at a residence on Gristmill Lane in Everman, Texas, on September 13, 2017. Elemental mercury

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was found on and in the driveway after being spilt by the residents and tracked into the home. The City of Everman emergency response services, which include the Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Medical Services, responded and secured the incident prior to arrival by EPA. The EPA representative met with response personnel, and provided technical assistance after preliminary assessment of the driveway. The city conducted initial cleanup of the driveway. After follow up assessment of the driveway and after initial cleanup efforts found continued elevated mercury vapor readings, EPA assessed the residence and also found elevated mercury vapor readings throughout. The city condemned the home and contacted Red Cross to provide lodging to the five residents ranging in age from 20's to 50's. The residents departed the home on September 16, at which time EPA and EPA contractors conducted a removal action of the mercury contamination in the home. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) provided transportation and disposal of mercury contaminated waste. On September 19 and 20, EPA collected air sampling in the home to confirm air quality was within acceptable concentrations (below 1,000 ng/m3). The city resealed the driveway and brought mercury vapor air monitoring results to within acceptable concentrations. EPA air sample results confirmed air quality in the home was below 1,000 ng/m3, and the residents were free to reenter the home on September 21, 2017.

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Hurricane Harvey Disaster Response: On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey impacted the Texas Coast as a Category 4 Hurricane. EPA Region 6 immediately activated their Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) and deployed personnel to begin coordinating with the State of Texas on emergency response activities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requested Emergency Support Function-10 (ESF-10) assistance for oil and hazardous materials coordination at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC). On August 28, 2017, FEMA issued a Mission Assignment to EPA Region 6, requesting ESF-10 assistance to the State of Texas in support of assessment and response operations to actual or threatened hazardous materials and oil releases/discharge under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

EPA was ready, and rapidly responded to the State's request for support with field operations, which included but was not limited to: identification and assessment of impacts to drinking water and wastewater critical infrastructure; assistance in the implementation of the Response Manager tracking system; response to oil and hazardous materials discharges/releases; augmentation of personnel for response operations; aerial and ground assessments to identify and evaluate discharges/releases; collection and disposal of accumulations of orphaned containers; and assessment of damages to oil/chemical facilities.

EPA provided 10 water quality experts to augment the TCEQ phone bank in Austin to contact water and waste water treatment facilities in the impacted areas to determine their operational status. Based on phone assessments, facilities were targeted for on-site visits to assess the facility's ability to conduct operations.

EPA also provided 16 additional staff members to augment and integrate with TCEQ staff in rapidly conducting on-site assessments at water and waste water systems in the Houston area. On-site assessments were conducted at drinking water and waste water treatment facilities. Assistance teams in the field worked directly with system operators to expedite getting systems back to operational status. The results of the assessments and phone interviews were shared with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for their infrastructure assessments and work.

EPA approved the request from the State of Texas to waive requirements for fuels in Texas, to help address the emergency circumstances in Texas from Hurricanes Harvey. Additionally, EPA provided three No Action Assurance (NAA) letters that were in effect thru September 29, 2017, regarding provisions of the Clean Air Act related to storage tanks and tanker trucks, as well as for the import of 255 power generators by the Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. (Yamaha), to be donated for use in communities impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in Texas and Florida, to assist in recovery efforts.

As part of the response, EPA established a Unified Command between EPA, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Texas General Land Office (TGLO), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). The command was supported by three geographic operational branches based in Corpus Christi, Houston, and Port Arthur/Beaumont. Other agencies supporting the Unified Command included the Texas National Guard, The 6th Civil Support Team (CST), the Arkansas National Guard, the 61st CST, the Oklahoma Task Force 1, and the Texas State Guard Engineering Group.

EPA and TCEQ received reports and citizen complaints of possible releases and spills of hazardous materials and oil throughout the hurricane damaged areas. Initially there were also concerns by EPA, TCEQ, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) over potential releases and damage to key infrastructure including large oil and chemical facilities, drinking water and waste water facilities, pipelines, refineries, Risk Management Plan facilities, and Facility Response Plan oil storage facilities. TCEQ requested EPA to provide assistance to assess these facilities for potential releases. EPA mobilized several national assets to accomplish this task.

The U.S. EPA Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) is an airborne platform equipped with special chemical and radiological sensors and imagery technologies. It detects chemicals while collecting aerial photos and videos for situational awareness during an incident. The ASPECT flew 28 flights over 112 hours covering miles of pipelines, 134 Risk Management Plan facilities, 456 drinking water plants and 105 waste water plants in support of the Hurricane Harvey response from August 31 to September 11, 2017.

EPA deployed two Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile laboratories, commonly referred to as TAGA buses, to assist in response activities as a result of Hurricane Harvey. The TAGA is self-contained and is capable of real-time monitoring of outdoor air emissions. The TAGA lab monitored the ambient air in the vicinity of approximately 25 facilities and adjacent neighborhoods in the impacted areas from September 5 to September 20, 2017. The facilities ranged over 321 miles and the TAGA covered over 640 miles in conducting the air monitoring.

EPA provided assistance to TCEQ and local emergency responders during a fire at the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, Texas. The EPA participated in the Unified Command for the response, providing support to the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department and the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office during the event that resulted in an evacuation of the surrounding community. EPA collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone and near residential areas. ASPECT was also instrumental in monitoring and providing data to emergency responders on the ground during the Arkema explosion and fire. The Portable High-Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System (PHILIS) is a mobile laboratory that EPA also used to screen floodwaters associated with the Arkema fire early in the response.

EPA, in coordination with TCEQ, TGLO, and the USCG, established joint teams and operations (Unified Command) in Corpus Christi, Houston, and Beaumont, Texas to assess, collect, characterize, and dispose of orphan containers in the impacted areas. All actions were conducted in such a manner as to avoid or minimize additional damage to the sensitive environments.

EPA completed collection of orphan containers on September 21, 2017. About 990 containers, including drums, cylinders, smaller containers, totes, and even above ground storage tanks (ASTs) were recovered. TCEQ requested assistance in conducting field operations to remove

and dispose of orphan drums and containers. Containers were characterized, bulked, and transported for safe and proper disposal.

Additionally, EPA Community Liaisons were deployed across the Hurricane Harvey impacted area to provide federal and state guidance and best practices to thousands of individuals dealing with potential hazards in damaged or lost homes. Joint EPA and TCEQ field observation teams observed debris staging and landfill operations within the hurricane impacted counties to ensure best practices and program requirements were being met

Water Quality Division

Final Project Report for the Brownsville Greening America's Communities Technical Assistance: On December 11, 2017, EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities provided the City of Brownsville, Texas the final project report for technical assistance received via EPA's Greening America's Communities (GAC) program. Brownsville was one of six communities selected nationally to receive technical assistance in FY2017 through EPA's GAC program. As requested in the City's letter of interest to EPA, the final report contains conceptual schematic design options for five sites to improve stormwater management and public space along and in the vicinity of International Boulevard. This report also highlights current city plans in development in which the city may consider implementing one or more the design options, and identifies potential financing sources and opportunities. Contact: Suzanna Perea, 214-665-7217.

Texas Molecular Deer Park Services (TMDPS) UIC No Migration Petition Reissuance Final Approval: On December 13th the final approval for this reissuance was signed and became effective. This reissuance extended the operational life of TMDP's two hazardous waste injection wells until 12/31/30, added an additional injection interval, increased the maximum allowable waste disposal volume, modified the waste stream specific gravity and density range, and added additional hazardous waste codes. TMDPS operates a commercial hazardous waste processing and disposal facility in Deer Park (Houston suburb) and uses their two wells to dispose of over 60 million gallons per year of onsite and offsite generated waste. TMDPS plans to begin drilling a new third disposal well in January 2018 and will submit a new reissuance for this well's approval after it is drilled and tested. Contact: Ken Johnson, 214-665-8473.

Region Wide Activities

Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and International Affairs

Environmental Justice (EJ) Collaborative Action Plans: OEJTIA is coordinating the updates of the Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas EJ Collaborative Action Plans with community stakeholders, State partners, and Region 6 program staff. Updates that support the plan's key activities are requested on a semi-annual basis. The action plans identify focus areas and key activities to be conducted over a two-year period to address environmental concerns. They are part of the overall Region 6 EJ Strategy of working with partners to expand EPA's positive impact within overburdened communities. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EJ Regional Calls with Community Representatives: OEJTIA hosts quarterly conference calls for all five states key community representatives. The agendas for these meetings include updates on the EJ Collaborative Action Plans, EJ Screen, and upcoming national and regional activities. The goal of the calls is to engage stakeholders, share information, engage in meaningful discussions, and work collaboratively to address environmental issues. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

EJ State Calls with Community Representatives: OEJTIA holds regular calls with EJ stakeholders in each Region 6 state to better share information, engage in meaningful discussions, and work collaboratively to address environmental issues. In addition, EPA staff provides updates on relevant topics including State EJ Collaborative Action Plans, EJ Grants, NEPA projects, and the EJSCREEN tool. Contact: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

NEPA - EJ and Tribal Reviews: OEJTIA is conducting Environmental Justice and Tribal reviews of NEPA projects to document potential impacts of federally funded or permitted construction projects. As of December 2017, OEJTIA has received, analyzed and provided EJ and Tribal comments on over 50 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and environmental letters/document requests. These projects if constructed could affect over 300 communities and all the Tribes in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

EJSCREEN Tool Prestigious National Award (SAG): In July 2017, OEJTIA Staff as a member of the National EJSCREEN Steering Committee was presented the prestigious award, the SAG Award from ESRI. EJSCREEN is EPA's nationally acclaimed environmental justice.

Since its release to external Stakeholders, EJSCREEN has consistently ranked as one of EPA's most used tools available through the Agency website with an average of 20,000 unique page viewed per month. It is regularly used by other federal entities, Tribal, States, Local Government, Nonprofit Organizations, Community Groups, Businesses, Industry, and Academia. Our recent EJSCREEN evaluation revealed that the uses of the tool range from informing policy, strategic, and programmatic decisions to crafting outreach tools and educational materials. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

2017 EJSCREEN Version Launched: On August 16, 2017 the Environmental Protection Agency launched its updated version of EJSCREEN, an Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping tool. OEJTIA staff coordinated with the Programs EJ SCREEN Representatives in the notification of the tool update and Webinar trainings to all the EJSCREEN users in Region 6. In addition, the States, States partners and Environmental Justice Stakeholders were all notified via teleconference as well as electronically. OEJTIA is soliciting feedback from EJSCREEN users to further enhance and expand the uses of the tool. The water indicators were one of the significant changes made to the 2017 Version of the tool. Contact: Agatha Benjamin, 214-665-7292.

EPA Announces 2017 EJ Small Grants: EPA announced nearly \$1.2 million in competitive Environmental Justice Small Grants to 36 local-based community and tribal organizations on October 30, 2017. Region 6 recipients include the following: Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light (Little Rock, AR); Pueblo of Sandia (Sandia, NM); The ARC Foundation (Oklahoma City, OK); and Teaching Responsible Earth Education (New Orleans, LA). EJ Small Grants provide critical support to organizations that otherwise lack the funding and resources to address environmental challenges in their community. OEJTIA coordinates EJ Small Grants activities for Region 6. For more on the 2017 recipients and their projects, go to [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-small-grants-programproject-descriptions-2017"]. Contacts: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162; Japhet Cruz-Diaz, 214-665-3176; and Tressa Tillman, 214-665-2261.

Hurricane Harvey Coordination: OEJTIA coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Louisiana Department of Quality (LDEQ), the Bureau of Indian Affairs Emergency Management (BIA EM) and EPA regional and HQ programs on information sharing on Hurricane Harvey impacts to regional EJ and tribal partners. OEJTIA also conducted weekly update calls for EJ

and tribal partners to address community concerns. Contacts: Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535; and Randy Gee, 214-665-8355.

FY2017 Environmental Justice Grant Webinar: OEJTIA staff hosted an Environmental Justice Grant Webinar on November 16, 2017. The purpose of the webinar was to 1) connect current EJ grant recipients with past recipients and community partners, 2) assist all community stakeholders with strategic planning for their communities, and 3) provide general project management and federal grant guidance. Staff from OEJTIA, 6MD, and the Office of Environmental Justice at EPA Headquarters led presentations during the webinar. Topics included Best Practices for EJ Grant Success; Development of Performance Measures, Outcomes, and Outputs; Terms, Conditions and Administrative Requirements; and Carrying Out Grant Activities. The EJ Small Grant program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Contacts: Omari Burrell, 214-665-3162; Charlotte Runnels, 214-665-6442; Tressa Tillman, 214-665-2261; and Gloria Vaughn, 214-665-7535.

Environmental Education Grants: The purpose of the Environmental Education Local Grants Program is to support locally-focused environmental education projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues and provide the skills that participants in its funded projects need to make informed decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment. The total funding for the competitive opportunity in Region 6 is up to \$300,000. The 2018 Environmental Education RFP for Region 6 is expected to be announced in January 2018. OEJTIA expects to award three or four grants for no less than \$50,000, and no more than \$100,000 each. Contact: Paula Flores-Gregg, 214-665-8123.

Enforcement Division

Department of Justice and EPA Enter into Settlement with Harsco Chemicals to Improve its Accident Prevention and Protection Measures: On July 31, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lodged a consent decree in the matter of Harsco Chemicals Inc. ("Harsco"). Harsco Chemicals Inc. entered into a proposed agreement to settle claims that Harsco violated provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) aimed at preventing accidental releases of chemicals that can have serious consequences for public health, safety and the environment. Under the proposed agreement, Harsco will assure that its accident prevention program complies with all applicable requirements. Headquartered in Kansas City, Kan., Harsco maintains and operates 31

facilities in 19 states that manufacture, blend, repackage, and distribute a wide variety of commercial chemicals, including extremely hazardous substances. Eight of these facilities are located in EPA Region VI. This proposed agreement will improve chemical safety and minimize the risk of accidental releases at Harcros' facilities nationwide. Under the proposed settlement, Harcros will audit 28 of its facilities to identify and correct any potential violations of its risk management program and comply with CAA requirements that facilities adequately assess hazards, undertake measures to prevent accidents, and be prepared to effectively address such accidents when they do occur. Harcros will correct any violations identified in the audits according to a schedule set forth in the agreement. The settlement agreement also requires Harcros to pay a \$950,000 penalty. Contacts: Jacob Gallegos, 214-665-9798; and Justin McDowell, 214-665-6557.

Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division E-Repository and ECHO Connection:
The pilot project to make documents housed in the Division's ERepository available in ECHO is successful. The public can now search for repository documents in ECHO using the ICIS Enforcement Number, FRS ID, Program ID, or date. Now the ECHO search can not only provide information on the case, but the public can view the related document (e.g., enforcement action) as well. Discussions are ongoing with HQ on using the CAED E-Repository as a National Application for all regions to use to post their documents. Contact: Larry Koss, 214-665-6533.

Multimedia Division

Approval of 2017 Annual Air Monitoring Network Plans -- Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and the City of Albuquerque: On October 3, 2017 and October 5, the EPA R6 approved with comments the 2017 Annual Air Monitoring Network Plan (ANPs) received from ADEQ, LDEQ, ODEQ, NMED, TCEQ and the COA in July 2017. The EPA R6 found the plans to be consistent with requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA), including operation of the ambient air monitoring network in accordance with 40 CFR Part 58, maintenance of its ambient air monitoring network in accordance with the quality assurance requirements of 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A, design of the network in accordance with Appendix D, and selection of site locations in accordance with the requirements of Appendix E.

These monitoring network plans were evaluated for ambient air monitoring requirements for measurements of ozone (O3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxide (NO), total reactive nitrogen (NOy) sulfur dioxide (SO2), lead (Pb), particulate matter of 10 micrometers (PM10),

particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM2.5), and speciated PM2.5. As required, each Air Monitoring Agency made its Plan available for public inspection for 30 days prior to submission, and also shared all comments received with EPA. The EPA R6 responded to each of the ANPs in less than 120 days of receipt. Contact: Ellen Belk, 214-665-2164.

Pesticide Spray Drift Incident Data Project: The State Lead Agencies (SLAs) are now providing data for FY2016. The baseline comparison for the project was set using data from 2013 and 2014. The project is focused on the elements of incident investigated; drift confirmed; method of application; Drift Reduction Technology (DRT) used, if available; type of applicator license; and enforcement response if applicable. The goal of the project is to assist the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) in assessing the success of the voluntary DRT Program. The program encourages the identification and use of pesticide spray application technologies or DRTs verified to reduce spray drift. Such DRTs may include spray nozzles, shrouds and shields and drift-reducing adjuvant chemicals used for aerial or ground boom applications to row and field crops. Completion of the project fulfills an ACS commitment for the regional pesticide program. Contact: Gerardo Acosta, 214-665-8042.

FY17 Integrated Pest Management: In FY17, 6MM-XP conducted 5 separate IPM and integrated vector management activities. These wholesale focused outreach events were attended by 211 medical and environmental health professionals, industry, federal/state/tribal/local agency staff, and associated professional organization members from across the region. Key subject covered during these outreach events included Zika, integrated vector management (mosquitoes), federal certification and training in Indian Country, bed bug mitigation, and other urban pest issues. 6MM-XP also conducted two site visits to mosquito control districts outside the region (Keys Mosquito Control District, Key West, Florida & Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District, Fresno, California) to gather information that will assist R6 develop strategies for collaborating and consulting with mosquito control districts/programs, state and local agencies, and the public on mosquito and other vector issues. Contact: Kenneth McPherson, 214-665-6754.

Superfund Division

Updates?

Oil Spill Prevention & Preparedness Program: In fiscal year 2017, EPA Region 6 conducted 175 Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure Inspections; 46 Facility Response Plan Inspections; 6 Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises and participated in 12

compliance assistance/outreach events. Region 6 targeted multiple inspections in areas known to have EJ concerns. Focus areas in Corpus Christi, TX, Houston, TX and Osage County, OK increase oil spill prevention efforts around EJ communities. The inspection activities in FY17 resulted in the initiation of 46 enforcement cases, 15 of which were in the communities listed above. FY17 inspections resulted in more than \$300,000 in proposed penalties and more than \$150,000 worth of expenditures to bring the facilities in to compliance.

FY17 Risk Management Program: During the 2017 fiscal year forty-five non-Title V facilities were prioritized for inspections under the Clean Air Act Risk Management Program. These included facilities prioritized as high-risk where significant populations may be impacted by a worst case accident or incident at the facility, or where the facility has had a previous accident involving an RMP covered chemical. In addition, Region 6 targeted multiple inspections in areas known to have EJ concerns, such as in the Corpus Christi area increase Risk Management Program efforts around EJ communities. Facilities were also prioritized based EPA's National Enforcement Initiative categories which looks at facilities across the ammonia refrigeration, chemical manufacturing, gas processing and fertilizer manufacturing industrial sectors. These inspections have assisted the regulated community in returning to compliance at facilities where violations were identified. Thus far EPA has identified violations at close to 20 facilities resulting in penalties in excess of \$70,000.

FY-17 Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities: EPA has hosted a series webinar for the Local Emergency Planning Committees across the Region. The purpose of the webinars is to support the LEPCs by providing training on topics such as Facility Release Reporting and the Local Government Reimbursement Program. The webinars are held monthly and reach a significant number of participants from the over 500 LEPCs across the Region. In addition, EPA produces and distributes a quarterly LEPC Update newsletter to LEPCs, Tribes, States and other stakeholders.

Water Quality Division

Updates?

Office Information



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Agency

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